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TUESDAY
DECEMBER 28, 1954

Jim called me to say that Jean Lambert, son-in-law of Bronfman, the super-rich Canadian distiller, wished to know if I would be interested in a partnership in his private banking firm. My answer was no. Lambert is able, and one of his partners is Thierry Clermont-Tonnerre, for whom I have great esteem. I have no desire, certainly in my present mood, to resume an active business career.

Ole Doering telephoned me from New York about the Argosy Pictures Corporation -- Merian Cooper's and John Ford's enterprise. It seems it is to be placed in liquidation. I have been completely paid off, as have the other bondholders, for my investment, with a profit of ten percent. It now appears that some shares which Ole and I bought some years ago as a matter of accommodation to other stockholders should be sold directly to the corporation, and we will each make an expected profit of $9,000. The stock is apparently worth considerably more than this, but Ole and I decided, after the situation was explained to me, to accept this price. Since this is in the nature of a windfall, we are circulating the other stockholders and offering to buy their holdings for a two-year period at the same valuation, so they will have, in effect, a guarantee against receiving less than ourselves. Actually, they will probably get appreciably more.

Spent most of the day on the farm.

I had a letter from Gladys Schukraft, who is still in Paris, dated December 23, saying Tommy had been taken to the hospital after a heart attack. He is [redacted] ill and unconscious, but may recover. He has been suffering in this respect since childhood, as a result of rheumatic fever, but until now his wonderful spirit has sustained him. E. and I are desperately worried. He is one of the rarest human beings I have ever encountered, and his value as an

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individual and as a public servant is almost unique. I cabled immediately for the latest news of him, and to offer any financial assistance that Phyllis might need and be willing to accept.

Foster called me tonight to say how disturbing the situation is in the French Parliament over the ratification of the London-Paris accords (called by the British the "London-Paris agreements" and by the French the "Paris agreements"). I strongly counselled no United States pressure or interference, believing any such attempts would be contraproductive. This seemed to be Foster's own view. I offered, as I had yesterday, to go at once to Washington, but Foster felt that unnecessary, and suggested if I had any later thoughts as to what might usefully be done, I telephone him. The crucial vote will take place tomorrow night.

The temperature today is 60 degrees. In the morning it was foggy, in the afternoon cloudy. The brick and marble in the house is sweating from [redacted] humidity.

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